Please amend claims 1, 5-8, 20, 22-24, 27, 28, 33-34 and 42-45 as follows:

1. (~~Twice~~ Amended) A gene encoding a protein [having aromatic acyl group transfer activity] which transfers an aromatic acyl group to flavonoid.

5. (Twice Amended) The gene according to claim 1 encoding a protein, which gene hybridizes with [part] a consensus region or all of the nucleotide sequence encoding any of the amino acid sequences of SEQ ID No. 1 to 6 under the condition of 5 x SSC and 50°C, and which protein [has aromatic acyl group transfer activity] transfers an aromatic acyl group to flavonoid.

6. (Twice Amended) The gene according to claim 1 encoding a protein, which gene hybridizes with [part] a consensus region or all of the nucleotide sequence encoding any of the amino acid sequences of SEQ ID No. 1 to 6 under the condition of 2 x SSC and 50°C and which protein [has aromatic acyl group transfer activity] transfers an aromatic acyl group to flavonoid.

7. (Three Times Amended) The gene according to claim 1 encoding a protein which consists of an amino acid sequence which is at least [15] 30% homologous to any one of the amino acid sequences of SEQ ID No. 1 to 6, and which [has aromatic acyl group transfer activity] transfers an aromatic acyl group to flavonoid.

72 8. (Twice Amended) The gene according to claim 1 encoding a protein which has an amino acid sequence having a homology of at least [30] 69% [or higher] with any of the amino acid sequences of SEQ ID No. 1 to 6, and which [has aromatic acyl group transfer activity] transfers an aromatic acyl group to flavonoid.

In claim 20, at line 4, please delete "acylating" and insert in place thereof --acylate--.

In claim 22, at line 4, please delete "acylating" and insert in place thereof --acylate--.

In claim 23, at line 4, please delete "acylating" and insert in place thereof --acylate--.

In claim 24, at line 2, please delete "antocyanin" and insert in place thereof --anthocyanin--.

73 27. (Amended) A cut flower of the plant or the plants progeny according to claim 25 [or its progeny having the same property].

74 Sub G3 28. (Amended) A gene encoding a protein, which gene encodes an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of the amino acid sequences as set forth in SEQ ID No. 1 to 6, or hybridizes with a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of the nucleotide sequences as set forth in SEQ ID No. 1 to 6 under the

74

condition of 5 x SSC and 50°C or the condition of 2 x [SSD] SSC and 50°C, and which protein [has aromatic acyl group transfer activity] transfers an aromatic aryl group to flavonoid.

In claim 33, at line 4, please delete "acylating" and insert in place thereof --acylate--.

In claim 34, at line 4, please delete "acylating" and insert in place thereof --acylate--.

42. (Amended) The gene according to claim 5, wherein the [part of the nucleotide] consensus sequence comprises a nucleotide sequence encoding the amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID No: 21.

75

43. (Amended) The gene according to claim 5, wherein the [part of the nucleotide] consensus sequence comprises the nucleotide sequence as set forth in SEQ ID No: 22.

44. (Amended) The gene according to claim 6, wherein the [part of the nucleotide] consensus sequence comprises a nucleotide sequence encoding the amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID No: 21.

45. (Amended) The gene according to claim 6, wherein the [part of the nucleotide] consensus sequence comprises the nucleotide sequence as set forth in SEQ ID No: 22.

Please add the following new claims 46-52:

--46. The gene according to claim 1, wherein the protein which transfers an aromatic acyl group to flavonoid is a protein which transfers an aromatic acyl group to the 3 or 5 position of anthocyanin.

47. The gene according to claim 2, wherein the gene encodes a protein which transfers an aromatic acyl group to the 3 or 5 position of anthocyanin.

48. The gene according to claim 5, wherein the protein is a protein which transfers an aromatic acyl group to the 3 or 5 position of anthocyanin.

49. The gene according to claim 7, wherein the protein is a protein which transfers an aromatic acyl group to the 3 or 5 position of anthocyanin.

50. The gene according to claim 8, wherein the protein is a protein which transfers an aromatic acyl group to the 3 or 5 position of anthocyanin.